

2-9-1862

Arthur McKinstry to Mother

Arthur McKinstry

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Camp Wool Feb. 9th 1862

Dear Mother,

What is the matter with you that you do not write. It must be a month if not more since I heard from you. You cannot plead that you have no tidings from me and I hope you do not think the anxiety all upon your side. We are still here in the old place and doing little beside making ourselves comfortable. There is no excitement here of late and news are pretty scarce. Lowe's balloon has been sent for and Major Stevens has promised to use his efforts to procure me a passage. I have no doubt that he will be successful and I look forward to it with considerable anticipation. A journey in mid-air would furnish material for quite

a lively Censor article. Well how do
you all get on at Forestville - what
news have you to relate - what
births deaths and marriages have
occurred. Luke Jones is perfectly well
and is now doing full duty.

He looked pretty thin for some
time but is now fat as a wood-
chuck. Bob McKinsty is hale and
heartly and I expect him over to dine
with me to day. The health of the
regiment is good and I hear but
few complaints of any kind.

I have never felt better in my life
and have at last recovered all the
strength and all the activity which
I lost in Mexico. I feel ready for a
campaign but it will probably be
six or eight weeks before business gets
very lively. The fact is we are all
blockaded "by the powers of mind" we are.
I must say that I am really enjoying
myself and why shouldn't I when

I have good society, good reading,
club meetings, and chess, to while
away the time. As for extras we have
now and then a plum pudding or
a plate of flapjacks and these are not
very expensive. I have a strong suspicion
that Col. Taylor is trying to get us
transferred from Sickles Brigade - on
account of the hard name the
other regiments bear. I hope that
it will be done for Sickles hangs
upon our necks like a millstone.
Taylor is a fine officer and has a
high reputation. I have got a pretty
large stock of clothes and I mean
to send some home just before
we march. I can spare a good jacket
which will last Frank a year and a
pair of pants which want a new
seat and will then wear a long
time. I can also spare a very fine rifleman's
blouse and a couple of pairs of linen
pants and still have two full suits

left - all that I want to march with.
I calculate to keep two suits by me of
good whole clothing so that I may never
be left destitute by being ordered to march
when I have only oldish clothing on hand.
Thus I shall always keep neat and
instead of throwing away clothing when
it is still good for considerable, I will
send it home where it can do long
service in the every day work of farming.
I cannot get a stamp and shall have
to let you pay the postage. Money is
not lacking but stamps are scarce.
Give my love to all

Your affson

Arthur

Camp Wood, Chickamauga, Ga.
Maryland Feb 9

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W Stevens
Maj 3d Reg
Tex Brig

Mrs Austin Chapin
Forester
N.Y.

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